

SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS:

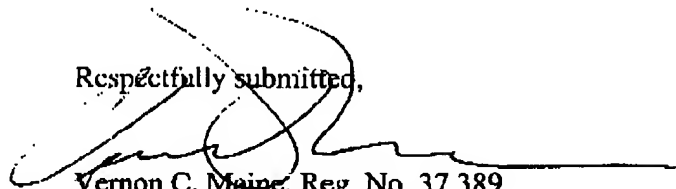
The correspondence to which the Applicant is responding having been obviously flawed; Applicant attempted several times by phone to get a clarification from the Examiner prior to its first submission. Finally, due to the Office-mandated deadline, Applicant was forced to respond formally with an indication of the flawed correspondence, requesting a correction.

In the absence of any immediate follow-on correspondence from the Office, Applicant through its undersigned Attorney made subsequent calls to the Examiner and its Supervisor attempting to get the case moving. During this time, the Applicant's contemporaneous PCT application expired with no suggestion of a possible U.S. result. In a conversation on 06/13/2003, during which time the Supervisor reviewed the case in an attempt to resolve the restriction issue over the phone, she indicated informally that she saw no basis for the restriction and was unable to offer a conclusive result at that time. She assured the undersigned that the Examiner would generate a formal correspondence forthwith. On 06/30/2003 the Supervisor indicated in a phone call with the undersigned that internal reports indicated a formal correspondence would mail this date.

To date, the undersigned has seen no indication on the PAIR system of a correspondence being mailed, nor received any formal response in the case.

Applicant protests that its interests have been adversely impacted by Patent Office errors and delays, and requests the restriction requirement be withdrawn immediately and the prosecution accelerated.

Respectfully submitted,



Vernon C. Maine, Reg. No. 37,389

Scott J. Asmus, Reg. No. 42,269

Neil F. Maloney, Reg. No. 42,833

Andrew P. Cernota, Reg. No. 52,711

Attorneys/Agents for Applicant

Cus. No. 24222

Maine & Asmus

PO Box 3445

Nashua, NH 03061-3445

Tel. No. (603) 886-6100, Fax. No. (603) 886-4796

Info@maineandasmus.com

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